Steps to strengthen the textile industry

4086. SHRI SURESH PASCHOURI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the impact of cheap inputs of textiles on the indigenous market so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the textile industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Government is aware of the changing global scenario, in view of overall WTO obligations and the Agreement on Textiles & Clothing (ATC), owing to which, the textile industry will have to improve its efficiency and productivity to meet the emerging global competition. Perceiving the emerging global environment Government has recently announced the National Textile Policy, 2000 (NTxP-2000) which has taken note of the new challenges and opportunities, particularly the initiation of the process of gradual phasing out of QRs on imports and the lowering of tariff levels for an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by the end 2004, and the need for a focused approach to maximizing opportunities and strengths inherent in the situation. One of the main objectives of the Policy is to facilitate the textile industry to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing and also to equip the industry to withstand pressure of import penetration and maintain a dominant presence in the domestic market.

To this end some of the important initiatives are as under :—

⇒ The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUF) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernization and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive with international trade.

⇒ Government has recently launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important goals of the Mission is to improve production, productivity and quality and stabilize prices.

⇒ Allowed foreign equity participation upto 100%, through automatic route, in the textile sector with certain exceptions.

⇒ To prepare and sensitize our textile and garment industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries, facilities of eco-testing laboratories have been provided.

⇒ National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

⇒ The New Exporters' Entitlement (Quota) policies announced for the period 2000-2004 provides stability and continuity and encourage competitiveness in textile exports.

⇒ Three new schemes have been included in the Plan of the Ministry to strengthen the garment sector, the jute industry and improve infrastructure in export oriented clusters.

⇒ A textile package of concessions and scheme has been announced in the budget 2001-2002, which includes the modernization of the decentralized powerloom sector by the induction of 2.5 lakh semi/ automatic looms and reduction of duties on import of critical machinery.

Steps to stop slow-down in textile industry

4087. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have called upon the textile industry to give concrete suggestions to put a brake on the slow-down witnessed during the past few months;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions of the textile industrialists receive by the Union Government;

(c) the extent to which the suggestions will be helpful during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) how far the sick mills/industry will be improved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) : (a) and (d) The consultation with the industry for formation of various schemes is an on going process. The industry is also represented adequately in most of the High Powered Committees of the Ministry of Textiles. The industry has made suggestions mainly for modernization of the industry to strengthen production base, to improve competitiveness, rationalization of fiscal duties and simplification of procedures.